



Roxann Wedegartner
Mayor

City of
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ACCESS

City Hall • 14 Court Square • Greenfield, MA 01301
Phone 413-772-1548 • www.greenfield-ma.gov

Members:

Lynne Kelley – Chair
Margo Campbell
Virginia DeSorgher
Douglas Mayo

GREENFIELD COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ACCESS (CDA)

Remote Via WebEx

Minutes of Thursday, March 11, 2021

1:00 p.m.

Members present:

Lynne Kelley, Chair
Virginia DeSorgher
Douglas Mayo
L'Aura Jordan
Bob Williford

Members absent:

None

Also present:

Lindsay Rowe, Acting ADA Coordinator for the City of Greenfield
Robin Fordham, Grant Program Assistant for the Community & Economic Development Department

Ms. Kelley called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

The meeting was recorded via the WebEx remote meeting platform.

Approval of Minutes:

October 8, 2020 minutes – DeSorgher moved to accept the minutes. Mayo seconded. Minutes approved 5-0, with no abstentions.

Treasurer's Report:

DeSorgher reported that the Handicapped Parking Fund balance is \$3221.05, and the General Fund balance is \$300.00. Jordan motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, and Mayo seconded. The report was approved 5-0.

Follow up on how to use funds; Rowe had suggested possible use for door openers for local businesses. Had used funds in past for wheelchair repair. Had also

previously discussed how to promote that funds are available. Kelley would like to add to project list for this year. Mayo suggested Adaptive Equipment, worked with them in the past, if still in existence he recommends (they had contracted with the state at that time). Rowe confirmed that funds be used solely for the benefit of persons with disabilities, must also be approved by the council and Mayor. Mayo would like to see funds given only to local businesses, not including major chains.

Open Issues:

Status of invitation to department heads

Commissioners should let Rowe know if they have a particular dept. head they would like to see attend. Kelley noted that the transition plan identified 19 departments and their status with ADA training and policies; only two had ADA policies. Kelley would like to see this addressed as an issue this year, possibility for a MOD-led training. Mayo expressed concerns about schools in regard to newspaper story about accommodating teachers. DeSorgher suggested Mayor's Chief of Staff for next meeting. Mayo suggested Marlow Warner of DPW, has worked with DPW in past and appreciated their engagement.

FRTA/Elm Terrace bus stop

Jordan and DeSorgher attended Traffic and Parking Commission meeting a few weeks prior. Alan Twarog gave a report there on what FRTA's intention is to address the bus stop situation at Elm Terrace. They have designed a workaround and plan to build a new bus shelter on Elm with a long sidewalk approach that would be graded properly. Jordan noted that FRTA did not call on any bus users for input on new design, expressed concerned about expensive design not being best option for users. Jordan will be meeting this afternoon to provide input, see if there is possibility further negotiation on outcome. DeSorgher expressed frustration with the proposed plan.

Building accessibility/CDA inclusion in planning stage/Library plans

Williford reports that Library is on time and on target, but there is some concern about fire station getting out of way of Library. April groundbreaking won't happen, but MBLC has given okay for delay. Back patio now has a ramp on it, looking for funding for benches for patio. Questions about landscaping costs, may need to be deferred, but no accessibility issues at this point. Two bathrooms out of six will be wheelchair accessible and large enough for personal care assistant, and labeled gender neutral. Kelley asked about parking spaces. Williford said at 75% review meeting, current plans show the minimum for handicapped parking. Might

designate “accessibility issues” preference for additional spaces, but not full handicapped. Mayo asked about percentage required. Williford said it is 3 spaces, and one must be van, plan currently meets minimum requirement. There had been some discussion about adding handicapped spaces on the street. DeSorgher suggest that the City/citizens could request additional spaces.

Covid-19 information

Kelley acknowledged DeSorgher and Williford for volunteering at the Senior Center. Kelley reported that Sheriff’s Dept. has begun vaccinating elders in their homes (LifePath, Sheriff’s Office and Housing Authority collaboration). Homebound can contact Sheriff’s office if needing a vaccination.

Review of streets needing repair

Kelley looking to update the list of streets needing repair listed in transition plan and take up with DPW Director Warner. Mayo asked if West St. is on transition plan list. Rowe confirmed that DPW has map and keeps detailed listing of streets and conditions. Mayo discussed Arch St. bridge sidewalk - can’t get a wheelchair on the sidewalk as it’s too narrow; DPW did not complete underneath the bridge because it is owned by railroad. Suggested connecting with the railroad to see if they could extend walkway to accommodate wheelchair width. Concerned that seniors should be able to make way safely to John Zohn Center via this route. Williford asked if there were resting spots along that route for those in wheelchairs. Mayo will talk to Warner for his thoughts and recommendations.

New Business

Member changes

Kelley noted Commissioner Margo Campbell passing, and that Bob Williford has joined as commissioner, and Celeste Lunt will join as an alternate (has experience with schools). DeSorgher submitted a request to change the charter in order to change the number of CDA seats to 5 from 7, to avoid quorum issues.

Conflict of Interest acknowledgements

Fordham confirmed that all members had submitted conflict of interest acknowledgement forms, and that they have been forwarded to the Clerk’s office.

Emergency preparedness with MOD

Jordan sent letter to MOD to see about holding a training at Elm St.



Barber Avenue

Williford reported on new building being constructed at 10-12 Barber St., possible that building is 3+ units. If so, should be accessible and CDA should alert planning of any violations. Rowe will look into whether it is single-family construction. Kelley noted that CDA has not seen any plans come before the Commission since COVID began. Rowe will follow up with Eric Twarog in Planning.

Announcements

Kelley will be forwarding a flyer about Public Right of Way workshop, if anyone is interested in attending.

Kelley reported that Mass Match and New England ADA have onsite spaces where you can go and try out equipment before purchasing, and she will be taking a “field trip” post-Covid. Rowe mentioned CDA could invite LifePath or [Mass match?] to attend a CDA meeting if members were interested.

Jordan mentioned an ongoing program of LifePath’s which seeks to make community more friendly to aging and Alzheimer's populations.

Next meeting:

1:00 p.m. on April 8, 2021, remove via WebEx

Adjournment

DeSorgher moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Jordan seconded the motion. The vote to adjourn was 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

